

Hobbies

'Good' may not be good enough

By Roger Boye

Today's column answers more questions from Chicago Tribune readers.

Q—Are coins in "good condition" worth collecting?

C.G., Hickory Hills

A—Possibly, depending on the date, metal composition and coin type. But as good as it sounds, "good" is one of the lowest condition categories, just a couple of notches above "poor" in the grading scale. In general, a coin rated "good" shows considerable wear, with the basic design appearing in outline form.

Q—Are nickels with a large "V" on the back side worth much? We have about 20 of them.

R.T., Naperville

A—All of the so-called Liberty nickels made in that time span retail for \$1 or less in "good con-

dition," except for a 1912 with an "S" mint mark on the tails side. It goes for at least \$30."

The buffalo nickel made its debut in 1913. Five 1913 Liberty nickels were secretly produced and smuggled out of the U.S. Mint building in Philadelphia.